

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RSJ07522WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/03927	International filing date (day/month/year) 11.09.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 30.09.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B23K15/08		
Applicant THE WELDING INSTITUTE		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the International application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 	

Date of submission of the demand 02.03.2004	Date of completion of this report 24.06.2004
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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-36 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-33 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/22-22/22 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).
(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-33
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-33
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-33
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: GB2375728

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 and shows:

A method of modifying the structure of a workpiece, the method comprising:

- 1) causing relative movement between a power beam and the workpiece so that a region of the workpiece is melted and the melted material displaced to form a projection at a first location in the region and a hole at a different location in the region.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known method in that the melted material is not allowed to solidify at least partially before a step 1 is repeated one or more times on a region intersecting the region of step 1.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as how to build up a surface structure using a power beam.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

Allowing the melted material to solidify at least partially after step 1 and repeating the operation a number of times on the same region has the effect that the displaced material from one application of the beam to a particular location on the workpiece surface may subsequently be overlapped by more displaced material. Likewise, the holes formed as a result of material displacement may also be overlapped to produce a new type of structure.

Since the workpiece that has been treated by the method of claim 1 will have a surface structure which will be identifiable as having been formed by the claimed method, the

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subject matter of independent claim 32 is also novel and inventive.

Claims 2-31, 33 are dependent on claims 1 respectively 32 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.